

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 18071

USOECN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: ESTC COCOM
SUBJ: COCOM CHAIRMAN CAUTIONS US ON DELAYS

REFS: A) OECD PARIS 14988, B) PARIS 17460

SUMMARY: DURING FAREWELL CALL BY USDEL, COCOM CHAIRMAN INDELICATO EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN OVER LONG AND FREQUENT US DELAYS IN TAKING POSITIONS IN THE COMMITTEE. HE EXPRESSED DESIRE TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEM WITH AMB SALZMAN. CHAIRMAN ALSO VOICED DISAPPOINTMENT OVER US UNWILLINGNESS TO AGREE TO OVERALL TIME LIMIT ON LIST REVIEWS. END SUMMARY.

1. WHEN USDEL MADE FAREWELL CALL ON CHAIRMAN INDELICATO JUNE 17, CHAIRMAN SAID HE WOULD LIKE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET AMB SALZMAN IN HIS CAPACITY AS US REPRESENTATIVE TO THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP, PARENT BODY OF COCOM. CHAIRMAN SAID HE WANTED DISCUSS WITH THE AMB THE SEVERITY OF THE PROBLEM WHICH HE SAW TAKING SHAPE AS RESULT OF LONG AND FREQUENT US DELAYS ON EXCEPTION REQUESTS AND DEFINITIAONAL PROPOSALS. HE SAID THESE DELAYS WERE CAUSING GROWING IRRITATION AMONG OTHER DELEGATIONS AND THE SITUATION WAS DETERIORATING. AS EVIDENCE OF THIS DETERIORATION HE
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CITED THE UK SALE OF SPEY ENGINES TO CHINA IN 1975 DESPITE US OBJECTION TWO YEARS EARLIER; BELGIAN SALE OF CNC MACHINE TOOLS TO ROMANIA WITHOUT COMMITTEE APPROVAL IN 1975; AND APPARENT BELGIAN INTENTION TO DEPART FROM COCOM UNANIMITY WITH REGARD TO THE SALE OF EMBARGOED MACHINE TOOLS TO COMMUNIST COUNTRIES IF THEIR PROPOSAL FOR LIBERALIZATION OF THE EMMARGO ON THAT ITEM IS NOT

ACCEPTED BY JUNE 24. USDEL POINTED OUT (AS HE HAD DONE IN COMMITTEE) THAT COMMITTEE'S EXCEPTIONS PROCEDURES EXISTED TO DEAL WITH THE KIND OF SITUATION THAT WAS PREOCCUPYING THE BELGIANS. CHAIRMAN REJOINED THAT US OFTEN TOOK SO LONG TO ARRIVE AT DECISION ON SUCH CASES THAT THE GENERAL EXCEPTIONS PROCEDURE OFFERED NO REMEDY. ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF US DELAY WHICH HE FOUND DAMAGING TO THE OPERATION OF THE COMMITTEE WAS THE DISCUSSION OF DUTCH PROPOSAL TO RAISE THE ADMINISTRATIVE EXCEPTION CUTOFF ON ITEM 1584 (OSCILLOSCOPES). IT TOOK US SEVEN MONTHS TO STATE A POSITION ON THAT PROPOSAL.

2. USDEL PROMISED TO RECOMMEND THAT AMB SALZMAN MEET WITH INDELICATO TO DISCUSS SUCH COCOM PROBLEMS.

3. CHAIRMAN THEN REFERRED TO RECENT DISCUSSION ON ORGANIZATITTNJF LISLREVCRRWS. (SEE REF A). HE SAID HE WAS DISAPPOINTED THAT AGREEMENT HAD NOT BEEN REACHED BECAUSE IT WOULD HAVE PARTLY DEFUSED BELGIAN PROPOSAL TO ADD OBSOLESCENCE CRITERION. IN REPLY TO USDEL'S QUESTION ON HOW THESE ISSUES WERE RELATED, CHAIRMAN SAID THAT WHEN OTHER MEMBERS SAW THAT LIST REVIEW WOULD BE LIMITED IN TIME AND THAT EVERYONE WOULD BE BOUND TO ABIDE BY TIME LIMITS, THERE WOULD BE LESS DANGER OF EMBARGO DEFINITIONS BECOMING OBSOLETE. HE WAS CRITICAL OF US REFUSAL TO AGREE TO AN OVERALL TIME LIMIT FOR LIST CONFIDENTIAL

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REVIEW, AND EXPLANATIONS ALONG LINES OF INSTRUCTIONS FROM WASHINGTON HAD FAILED TO CONVINCE HIM THAT SETTING A TIME LIMIT COULD ADVERSELY AFFECT THE LIST REVIEW PROCESS. IN HIS VIEW A LIST REVIEW COULD WELL BE LIMITED TO ELEVEN MONTHS AND REVIEWS COULD BE HELD MORE FREQUENTLY.

4. CHAIRMAN SUMMED UP BY SAYING THAT HE PERSONALLY WAS STRONGLY IN FAVOR OF COCOM AND ITS AIMS BUT THAT TO ACCOMPLISH THOSE AIMS THE SYSTEM HAD TO WORK PROPERLY. HE LEFT THE INFERENCE IT WAS NOT NOW SO WORKING.

5. ACTING USDEL WILL BRIEF AMB ON COCOM AND SUGGEST TO HIM A MEETING WITH CHAIRMAN INDELICATO WHEN AMB'S SCHEDULE PERMITS IT. UNFORTUNATELY THE SITUATION WHICH CAUSES THE CHAIRMAN CONCERN HAS BECOME ACUTE OF LATE AND US PERFORMANCE ON EXCEPTION REQUESTS AND DEFINITIONAL ITEMS HAS SLIPPED NOTICEABLY DURING THE PAST SIX MONTHS. AT DEPARTING USDEL'S LAST MEETING ON JUNE 14 HE WAS WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS ON ALL BUT ONE OF THE 13 EXCEPTION REQUESTS OF OTHER MEMBERS WHICH WERE UP FOR CONSIDERATION THE FIRST TIME, AND ON ONE OF THE OTHER THREE CASES

WHICH WERE UP FOR RECONSIDERATION. SALZMAN

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